Assistance to Andhra Pradesh for Rural Development

3451. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:
SHRI YERRA NARAYANA-SWAMY:

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Andhra Pradesh has sought Rs. 135 crores for rural development;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken in this regard; and

(d) the additional allocations made to the State under JRY and IRDP?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS & EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VERMA): (a) No, Sir. No request has been received from State Government of Andhra Pradesh in the Ministry for sanction of Rs. 135 crores for the rural development.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) During 1996-97 an amount of Rs. 10.00 crores was released as additional Central share under JRY to two cyclone affected district of Andhra Pradesh. No additional allocations have been made to the State under IRDP.

Identification of Ground Water-Zones in Gujarat

3452. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of districts in Gujarat for which Hydrological Maps have been obtained for identification of ground water-zones;

(b) the progress made under the National Drinking Water Mission;

(c) the number of district where identifying of ground water-zone are still under study; and

(d) the result of such studies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS & EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VERMA): (a) Hydrological maps for identifications of ground water zones had been obtained by March, 1990 in respect of 19 districts of Gujarat.

(b) The State Government of Gujarat is making use of the hydrological maps on a selective basis for difficult areas under the guidance of the State level Scientific Source Finding Committee.

(c) No more districts, at present are under study for identifying the ground water zones.

(d) Does not arise.

Representation for keeping Eranakulam Wharf Clean

3453. SHRI JIBON ROY: will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Cochin Port Employees Organisation, Cochin, had requested Port authorities to keep the Eranakulam Wharf clean, and away from such obnoxious substances as sulphur, coal, iron scraps etc., as any trace of such polluting substance on or inside the packets of sea foods, spices etc. which are exported, would be rejected by the importer;

(b) the details of action taken in this regard;

(c) if not, reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Organisation has also made a request for handling consignments of cement, coal and sulphur etc. on Mattancherry Canal side; and

(e) the action taken on this request, if no action has been taken the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Port Authorities have issued instructions to the Agents/Stevedores to ensure that handling of sulphur, coal, iron scrap etc. should not result in pollution and discomfort to other users of the port. Steps taken include—

— Sprinkling of water to reduce dust.

— Covering of trucks with tarpaulins.

— Earmarking of routes for transport and storages of coal, sulphur and other bulk materials.

— Installations of screens near storage area to prevent dust.

— Monitoring of pollution.

(c) In view of the above, does not arise.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Vessels bringing sulphur, coal or iron scrap etc. are normally berthed only at Mattancherry Wharf except when vessels are coming in deeper draft. In such cases also, once the draft is reduced, the vessels are immediately shifted to Mattancherry Wharf for unloading the cargo.

Funds for National Highways Damaged due to Natural Calamities in Maharashtra

3454. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of damage caused to National Highways by natural calamities and heavy traffic during the last 3 years, and the funds provided and actually utilised by the Maharashtra Government during that period;

(b) whether the funds for major repairs and maintenance of National Highways are far too inadequate in view of deteriorating conditions of the National Highways in Maharashtra if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the proposals received from the State Government in this regard; and

(d) the details of action taken thereon and outlay proposed for 1997-98 for National Highways in the State?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) to (c) Damages to National Highways do occur on account of natural calamities and heavy movement of traffic, but funds for M&R (Maintenance and Repair Works) are allocated to States keeping in view various factors, inter-alia, the traffic intensity, climatic conditions, terrain, soil, etc. However, the fund for Maintenace and Repair for the country as a whole as available is about 45% of the requirements. Within the funds available, during the last three years, Maharashtra has been allocated Rs. 8006.82 lakhs for Maintenance and Repairs including Rs. 603.95 lakhs for Flood Damage Repair Works. These funds have been fully utilised by the State Govt. of Maharashtra.

(d) Since the budget for 1997-98 is yet to be approved, it is too early to give the proposed outlay for 1997-98.

Import and Export through Ports

3455. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether ninety percent of goods meant for imports into and exports out of the country are transported through ports of the country;

(b) if so, the names of ports of the country being utilised for the purpose;

(c) whether the condition of these ports is very serious, lacking in all infrastructure available in ports of developed countries and non-provision of containers handling facilities etc.;

(d) whether Government propose to take some steps to improve condition of these ports; and

(e) if so, the details thereof with names of ports of Andhra Pradesh to be benefited and if not, the reasons therefor?